

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 AF-10 ARA-10
EUR-12 DIWY-01 /116 W
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P R 181030Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3425
INFO AMEBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8431

FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD (USUN) AND ASST. SECRETARY MAYNES (IO)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, SHUM, US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: WELLS/PETREE PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 8420

1. AMBASSADOR WELLS AND ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK
EXCHANGED VIEWS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS. NAIK SAID THAT GOP FULLY SUPPORTS COMMITTEE III
AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA. HE
NOTED THAT THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS WELL AS SOME OTHER
COUNTRIES OPPOSED THE IDEA OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER, AND SAID
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HE THOUGHT OUTCOME OF INITIATIVE WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER
IT IS SEEN AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON THE
DEFINITION OF THE COMMISSIONER'S FUNCTIONS, AND ON THE
MACHINERY ESTABLISHED, AND HOW IT IS LINKED WITH EXISTING
UN INSTITUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT GOP HAS AN OPEN MIND ON
THE PROPOSAL. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, NAIK COMMENTED THAT
FINDING A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE HICOM POSITION WOULD

BE A MORE SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE THAN SELECTING A
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL.

2. MFA DIRECTOR (UN) AKRAM ADDED THAT MACHINERY IS ALREADY
AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS BODIES (E.G. 1503 PROCEDURE, ILO).
PERHAPS A MORE ACCEPTABLE SUGGESTION WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH
ANOTHER SMALL GROUP WITHIN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,
RATHER THAN A HIGH COMMISSIONER. AS A VETERAN OF EARLIER
COMMITTEE III DISCUSSION ON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER QUESTION,
AKRAM CONSIDERED THIS THE MOST DIVISIVE ISSUE EVER DISCUSSED
IN THAT COMMITTEE.

3. AS TO THE MONITORING GROUP ON TORTURE, GOP FELT THAT
MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WAS TO ACHIEVE A CLEAR DEFINITION OF
A "PRISONER." GOP LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING MORE DETAILS
FROM US IN FUTURE ON THIS INITIATIVE AND OFFERED TO
ASCERTAIN A REACTION FOR US ON SUCH AN INITIATIVE FROM
THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP.

4. AFTER CONCLUDING DISCUSSION ON GENERAL NOTE OF
PESSIMISM CONCERNING CHANCES OF SUCCESS FOR INITIATIVES
IN HUMAN RIGHTS ARENA AT FORTHCOMING GA, NAIK CAME FORWARD
WITH A CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION. NAIK SUGGESTED
THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH WISER FOR US TO BUILD HUMAN RIGHTS
ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY ON EXISTING MODELS WITHIN THE UN
SYSTEM. SPECIFICALLY, NAIK SUGGESTED THAT ILO INVESTIGATIVE
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MECHANISM BE GRAFTED ON TO ACTIVITIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION. THE ARGUMENT TO BE MADE IS THAT MEMBERS OF
ILO ACCEPT THE EXISTING PROCEDURAL MECHANISM FOR INVESTIGATION
IN THAT ORGANIZATION AND WOULD BE CONTRADICTING THEMSELVES
IF REJECTING THE SAME PROCEDURE IN ANOTHER UN BODY. NAIK
FELT THAT BY USING A PROCEDURE WITH A PRECEDENT IN UN SYSTEM,
A STRONGER CASE FOR ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY COULD BE MADE
THAN BY INTRODUCING A TOTALLY NEW CONCEPT OF PROCEDURE.

5. COMMENT: IN EARLIER DISCUSSION AT DINNER,
NAIK COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR WELLS THAT HE ASSUMED USG
WOULD FIND SOME WAY NOT TO LEAVE THE ILO. IN CONVERSATION
FOLLOWING OFFICIAL TALKS, NAIK INDICATED GOP WOULD BE
WILLING DISCUSS FURTHER DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED.
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